Increase in the prices of coal

1523. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 530 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to further increase the prices of Coal; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the prices of coal.

(b) Does not arise.

Filling up of posts in public sector undertakings

1524. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present a large number of posts are lying vacant in different public sector undertakings;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has made certain recommendations regarding filling up of those posts;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Production of cooking gas in Assam

1525. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what quantum of cooking gas is produced in Assam and what is its requirement in the State at present; and

(b) whether there is any shortage of LPG in the State and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The figures relating to production and requirement of LPG in Assam given below would show that the production is more than the requirement:

(*In* '000 *tonness*)

Year	*Production*	*Requirement*
1987-88	56	27
1988-89	58 (Prov.)	30

Late delivery of postal articles in Kumaon region

1526. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the postal letters, money orders, telegrames etc. are being delivered very late in the Kumaon region particularly in District Almora;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no delay in delivery of postal letters and money orders. As regards telegrams, delivery is however, not very satisfactory.

(b) The main reasons for unsatisfactory delivery of telegrams is susceptibility of open wire line alignment to interruption due to bad weather conditions and manual re-transmissions of telegrams in more than one telegraph office.

(c) Open Wire line alignment, is planned to be replaced by high grade medium in the Eighth Five Year Plan and store and forward system terminals which avoid manual re-transmissions shall be provided at Almora in Seventh Five Year Plan itself.